



# Red Tail Flyer

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[www.afnews.af.mil/internal/papers/Balad.pdf](http://www.afnews.af.mil/internal/papers/Balad.pdf)

November 12, 2004

## Balad welcomes top Air Force leaders

Group praise Airmen,  
show off new uniform

Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen  
332nd AEW/PA

The Air Force's top brass visited Balad this week praising the deployed troops for the job they're doing here while also showing off the new version of the proposed utility uniform.

During a troop call Tuesday inside Town Hall, Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche, Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray got a chance to get up close and personal with Airmen.

"What a great day it is for the members of the 332nd," said Col. Blair E. Hansen, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander, as he welcomed the group to the troop call. "As Airmen, we have no better advocates than the three men standing before you."

As the three top Air Force leaders came to the stage, a thunderous applause roared through the building.

"It is an extreme honor for me to be here and I can't say how proud I am of you and what you're doing here," Secretary Roche said. "The whole nation is behind you and what you are doing for them everyday."

"I am proud to stand with you here today as part of the greatest Air Force in the history of the planet," Gen. Jumper said. "As I look around this base and look at what we're doing here, it's just tremendous."

"I cannot say how proud I am to be here today with you," Chief Murray said. "You are simply incredible and I am proud to be part of this group, which includes the greatest enlisted force in the history of the world."

While addressing the crowd each touched



Air Force/Airman 1st Class Joshua Jasper

**Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper shakes hands with Airman 1st Class James McKinney as Staff Sgt. Jeremy Fox looks on. Both Airman McKinney and Sergeant Fox are members of the 732nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron and were awarded Purple Hearts earlier in the day by the visiting Air Force leaders.**

on a few Air Force issues while also talking about the importance of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the ongoing war on terror. They also mentioned how the Air Force plays a major role in joint operations throughout the theater and how Airman are using all of their assets to get the job done.

"We have all parts of the Air Force represented here," Gen. Jumper said. "We put units together from active duty, Guard, Reserve, and together you are all getting the job done."

The group also awarded Purple Heart medals to Staff Sgt. Jeremy Fox and Airman 1st Class James McKinney of the 732nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron during the troop call. The two

Airmen were struck by an improvised explosive device on a convoy mission south of Mosul in late October.

Following the troop call the top three Air Force leaders shook hands, answered questions and mugged for photos with Airman. They also traveled to work areas to see the full spectrum of Balad's mission.

"This is why we are here," Chief Murray said. "We want to see you first hand, listen to you, talk to you and find out what we can do for you."

"You should look in the mirror everyday and be proud of what you're doing," Gen. Jumper said. "When the people in the U.S. see you, they just can't wait to tell you how proud they are of you."

# We've started strong, so lets maintain it

Col. Blair E. Hansen

332nd AEW commander

We have ushered in November in a busy fashion with visits from our top leadership. Secretary of the Air Force James Roche, Chief of Staff General John Jumper and Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Gerald Murray were duly impressed with the professionalism and dedication of the men and women of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, and so was I.

I know a lot of effort went in to readying the wing for this visit and I thank you for going above and beyond to help us showcase our mission to our guests. Our facilities were in tip top shape and that took a lot of after hours work from some folks who have already been maintaining a fast pace. From the planners, to the briefers, to the drivers — every facet of the visit reflected the 'can do' attitude worthy of our Red Tail Flyer heritage.

This week also brought about the onset of operations in Fallujah. This major coalition offensive with our Iraqi soldiers is a critical campaign in our stabilization efforts here. President Allawi has made it clear that there will be no safe havens for terrorists and he resolved to free that city from the insurgents



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Marc Barnes

**Staff Sgt. Crystal Brown, 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, re-paints the Tuskegee Airmen mural in front of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing headquarters building.**

terrorizing its citizens. Remember, the enemy we fight remains dedicated to our demise — now more than ever we need to maintain our vigilance and keep our head in the game.

And we need to defend against the inside threat as well — protect ourselves from ourselves. We've just passed what is the half-way point for this rotation. Traditionally, this is one of the most dangerous points of a rotation. Face it. You've fallen into a routine,

you've grown accustomed to 'life at Balad Air Base.' And while these are healthy signs of adjustment, we need to take care that routine doesn't turn into rut and that comfortable doesn't give way to complacency. We've already seen a rise in mishaps with our Airmen, and in each instance they were preventable incidents. We're fortunate that so far none of them have been serious, but with the environment we live and work in, it is easy for one slip up to turn into something far more serious. I need each and every one of you to take a renewed interest in safety.

Every single Airman is important to this wing. So please look out for yourself, and one another. The holidays are just ahead and for many it is a particularly difficult time to be away from family and friends. Help one another through these low points. If you find yourself struggling to make it through these times, or if you notice a co-worker floundering, know that our chaplain staff, life skills professionals and corps of first sergeants are here to help.

We're off to an outstanding start to November. Let's maintain that momentum throughout this second half of our tour of duty. Thanks for all you do for your wingman, for our wing, and for your country. God speed and God Bless.

## Combat comics provide relief to Airmen, Soldiers

Group goes all out for laughs in AOR

Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen

332nd AEW/PA

Airmen and Soldiers filled the Sustainer Theater twice Friday as the touring Combat Comics brought their brand of humor to Balad.

Stephen Austin, Kenny Kane, Lee Levine, Steve Mazan and Jeff Peters worked the crowd for about two hours each show joking about a variety of subjects, singing some humorous songs and performing a little magic.

"I'm excited to be here performing for these troops,"

Mazan said. "This is my third time over here and I enjoy it every time."

"It's great to be here," Austin said. "I sincerely mean that. We're having a good time putting on these shows."

The Combat Comics are on their third week of touring the area of responsibility and have gone everywhere from Uzbekistan to Kuwait performing for the Army, Navy Air Force and Marines.

"This has been a dream for all of us," Kane said. "We went to the hospital here to visit with some of those troops and its really good to sit back and reflect on what's going on here daily."

"I really appreciate what all

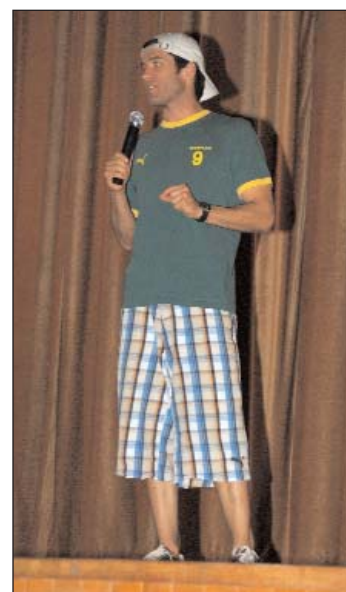
of them are doing for us," he continued.

Those in attendance enjoyed their time and appreciated them traveling all the way over to perform for them.

"I thought the show was pretty good," said Army Spc. Nathaniel Petri, 644th Truck Company. "It's great that they'll come over here from the U.S. and entertain us."

"It was a really, really good show," said Staff Sgt. Milaine Griffin, 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group. "They're really taking a risk coming over here and doing this, but I'm sure glad they did."

The Combat Comics tour one more week in the AOR before heading back to the States.



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen

**Combat Comic Kenny Kane performs at the Sustainer Theater Friday.**



# Health fair attendees pick up important tips

## Information, free gifts handed out at event

Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen

332nd AEW/PA

More than 100 Airmen attended the 2004 Keep Your Body Healthy Fair Saturday at the Town Hall.

The event, which was sponsored by the 332nd Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility, offered 11 booths covering everything from physical fitness, blood pressure screenings to diet and nutrition information.

"All eleven of our tables were popular with lots of pertinent information and free goodies," said Capt. Wanda Stauffer, who is a day shift nurse with the 332nd CASF and event organizer. "It was a great opportunity to meet our neighbors while promoting our goal of providing them with information and

supplies to keep them healthy."

With all of the health information available to attendees, as always it was the free trinkets that sent them away smiling.

"There was some good information out there," said Senior Airman Herman Miller, 46th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron. "Best of all though, they had lots of free stuff."

"We're on our way to work and decided to stop by and see what they had," said Airman 1st Class Amanda Lore, who attended with Airman Crystal Yetter, both of the 421st Expeditionary Fighter Squadron. "There's a lot of good information and plenty of free goodies and handouts."

The health fair event is the third of its kind on Balad. The first two were also sponsored by the 332nd CASF.

"We got excellent reviews from attendees and our staff had a good time too," Capt. Stauffer said.



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen

**Airman 1st Class Amanda Lore, left, and Airman Crystal Yetter, 421st Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, pick up free samples at the health fair.**

# Classes help Airmen prepare for CLEP tests

Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen

332nd AEW/PA

Airmen planning on taking College Level Examination Program tests now have help preparing for them.

English composition and basic algebra classes are now being offered weekly in the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing headquarters building for those looking for a little help preparing for CLEP tests.

"This is a great path to self-improvement while deployed here and does not cost you a dime," said Senior Master Sgt. Robert Altenbernd, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing first sergeant. "Many CCAF (degrees) are only one math or English CLEP away."

Maj. Jeff Sattler, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing staff judge advocate and former high school English teacher, offers English composition classes every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday from 8 to 9 p.m.

### CLEP Prep Classes

- English composition and basic algebra classes are being offered weekly. For more information contact Senior Master Sgt. Robert Altenbernd at 458-1119.

through Nov. 23.

"A deployment is a great time to get some things done that you might not have the time or convenience to get done back home," Maj. Sattler said. "Coming out of here with 6 or 12 college credits lets you take home a little more from you deployment than some pictures and fond memories."

Basic algebra is offered every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8 to 9 p.m., through Nov. 22. The class is a taught by Staff Sgt. Michael Roltgen, who is a Wisconsin National Guard member assigned to the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron. Sergeant Roltgen is a high school math teacher in



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen

**Staff Sgt. Donald Reynolds, 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Group, takes notes during an English composition class Nov. 2.**

McFarland, Wis.

"This is a great program for Airmen because I've already talked with a couple people that have said math is the one roadblock that stands in their way of getting a CCAF degree," Sergeant Roltgen said. "After taking the CLEP myself, the test is based so much on problem solving that I feel we have

enough time to get the mathematical knowledge base to where we just have to learn how to apply our knowledge to the questions."

Once individuals are completed with the classes, they can sign up for their test date.

For more information on the classes, please contact Sergeant Altenbernd at 458-1119.

# New light weight weapon joins Balad arsenal

Master Sgt. David Reagan

332nd AEW/PA

In an effort to keep pace with the ever-changing face of close quarters combat, F-16 crews here plan to employ a new, lightweight satellite-guided munition soon.

The newly unveiled GBU-38 500-pound Joint Direct Attack Munition is designed to reduce collateral damage, limit unintended casualties and take the fight up close and personal to enemy insurgents and anti-Iraqi forces alike.

Although not the first in theater to drop the newest JDAM in the U.S. arsenal, munitions specialists, maintainers and aircrews dedicated to keeping the bite of the 421st Expeditionary Fighter Squadron "Black Widows" lethal are saying, "Let's Roll."

As specialists and maintainers fine tune the basics to certify the GBU-38 on the Block 40 Fighting Falcons from Hill Air Force Base, Utah based here, elsewhere in the AOR, the new JDAM has already proven to be a thorn in the side of those who choose to impede the Iraqi reconstruction effort.

Two F-16's from an undisclosed location completed the first successful combat drop of GBU-38's Oct. 4 during a precision strike on a confirmed Abu Musab al-Zarqawi terrorist meeting. The two released JDAM's precisely struck the terrorist hideout causing only minimal collateral damage.

"We're ready to go, and just waiting on the final steps in the approval process," said Senior Master Sgt. Douglas Baker, 332nd Expeditionary Equipment Maintenance Squadron munitions flight chief. "After receipt of our JDAM tail fin kits in late October, my munitions crew produced sufficient quantities of the new JDAM to support our mission requirements in only 24 hours."

Additionally, Sergeant Baker said the new weapon greatly enhances the capabilities of the Black Widow team by giving them an additional choice of weapon that performs well in a confined, inner-city environment.

Normally with new equipment and cutting-edge technology, one can expect a certain degree of difficulty or steep learning curve to be associated with the product, however during the initial build munitions crewmembers found the newest JDAM the easiest to assemble of all the JDAM line-up.

"We prefer building this JDAM over the



Air Force/Master Sgt. David Reagan

**Airman 1st Class Michael Claypoole, a munitions systems journeyman with the 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron, torques down the tail fin assembly of a GBU-38.**

others simply because it is much easier to work with the smaller weapon compared to the 2000-pound JDAM we routinely call the monster," Sergeant Baker said.

"The focus and level of teamwork we used in building the initial compliment of GBU-38's was high. There is a profound likelihood these weapons will be expended on each mission here so it was imperative for us to learn and follow the new procedures to the letter.

"After all, it is all about bombs on-target

in this environment," said Technical Sgt. Patrick Van Vranken, 332nd EMXS munitions flight production supervisor. Van Vranken oversaw the initial assembly of the new Balad Air Base JDAM's.

"Anytime you experience a new weapons system it is interesting and challenging all at the same time," said Van Vranken. "We have to do it right each and every time. Our Army, Navy and Marine counterparts expect no less and need this support on the ground, they need this firepower."



# Rubber removal project clears Balad's runway

Team effort may become template for entire AOR

Senior Airman Chad Yunk

332nd ECES

Pilots and aircrews landing on the main runway at Balad Air Base will notice a huge change as they brake and taxi in, thanks to the efforts of Airmen in the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer and Operations Support squadrons here.

Until recently, the runway was covered with a thick trail of aircraft tire rubber, deposited by thousands of landing aircraft. In some places the rubber was up to the thickness of a dime.

With the rainy season just around the corner, cleanup of the runway became a high priority.

"Removal of rubber build up on Balad's airfield had been overdue for some time," said Master Sgt. Charles Washington, who is the airfield manager for the 332nd EOSS. "The build up was a safety concern for pilots landing, as it caused slippage when braking."

As the utilities, structures and heavy equipment shops from the 332nd ECES worked up a plan along with the 332nd EOSS, the group knew the project not only had to be completed quickly, but also had to have some flexibility built in, as the runway would still have to be used at certain times of the day.

"The challenge was finding a contractor who could immediately deploy to our base and get the job done quickly, without shutting down the runway," said Capt. Michael Kuk, engineer chief for the 332nd ECES.

As it turned out, Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, was having similar problems, so the two teamed up to complete the jobs in sequence. With the help of U.S. Central Air Forces out of Al Udeid, Qatar, the 435th Construction Training Squadron out of Ramstein Air Base, Germany, and the Wiesbaden contracting center, a C-17 flew in a contractor and a specialized piece of equipment to clean up the rubber.

The contractor employed a custom-built truck that used high-pressure water



Courtesy photo

**A contractor removes rubber from Balad's main runway recently. Members of the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer and Operations Support Squadron teamed up with the contractor to complete the effort.**

to blast away rubber deposits quickly, without damaging the runway or using chemicals. The machine then vacuumed up the waste and stored it for disposal.

However, the contractor could not have completed the job without the 332nd ECES structures team. They ran a continuous supply of water at the rate of 2,000 gallons an hour, while another truck removed wastewater from the site, helping the operation run smoothly.

While the contractor worked, the 332nd ECES decided to take advantage of their time on the runway. Heavy equipment operators equipped with concrete saws and quick-setting concrete followed behind the rubber removal team repairing spalls.

"Similar to potholes, spalls are craters and fissures on the runway caused by heated concrete expanding," said Staff Sgt. Mike Roltgen, 332nd ECES.

The structures shop also followed the rubber removal truck, repainting and updating taxiway and runway markings.

As the work continued, it was the job of airfield management to balance the needs of the mission with those of getting the runway cleaned up.

"The crew was given a time slot of (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) to work, but even then there were times when a mission took precedence and C-23 Sherpas would be

taking off and landing over their heads," Sergeant Washington said. "On a couple of instances the crew had to hurry to evacuate the runway so C-17s could land."

There were other issues for the workers as well.

"The work stoppages due to alarm red created another challenge," Capt. Kuk said. "But we made lemon-aid out of lemons. During alarm red we would form a tight wagon train of trucks on the runway to provide cover, and take advantage of this time and afforded protection to replenish the rubber truck, and remove the waste sludge."

In the course of eight days the specialized contracting crew removed enough rubber to fill approximately three large dump trucks. After the job was completed at Balad, the crew and equipment flew to Bagram to clean the runway there. Both jobs were completed before the start of the rainy season.

Due to the overwhelming success of the two projects, CENTAF is considering making this the template for operations throughout the theater, according to Capt. Kuk.

"Already several bases in the theater, including Baghdad International, have contacted me for advice," he said. "It was a team effort that got the job done and we are happy to give assistance."

# AIR FORCE LEADERS VISIT BALAD



Air Force/Airman 1st Class Joshua Jasper

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper congratulates a group of Airmen who he gave the oath of reenlistment to Tuesday.



Air Force/Airman 1st Class Joshua Jasper

Gen. John P. Jumper, Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche, and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray lead the applause for Airman 1st Class James McKinney and Staff Sgt. Jeremy Fox of the 732nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, who were awarded Purple Hearts during the troop call.



Air Force/Tech. Sgt. Robert Jensen

Chief Murray talks about the material of the new version of the proposed utility uniform while touring the 732nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Detachment 3. The chief also was wearing his new command chief master sergeant of the Air Force stripes on his visit.



Air Force/Airman 1st Class Joshua Jasper

Secretary Roche meets with members of the 46th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron after getting a briefing on the Predator unmanned aerial vehicle.



# Our cup runneth over

Chaplain (Maj.) Donnette Boyd

332nd AEW/HC

"Would you like a cookie chaplain?" asked Tech. Sgt. Thomas Atwood.

"No thank you," I replied, "I'm stuffed."

As I left security forces and went to check on the folks at the services squadron, Senior Master Sgt. Aubrey Harvey asked, "Would you like some candy?"

"No thank you," I replied. "Wait a minute, aren't those Twizzlers? Well, okay, you've talked me into it."

"Hey, aren't I supposed to be giving you candy!?"

As I walk through the shops in the mission support group and visit all the offices, I'm constantly offered food. Out of the abundance of their stash, one person after another offers up the contents of their care package.

"What about wet wipes? Do you need any of those? How about some lotion?"

We are in constant receipt of packages from loved ones back home. Not just the loved ones we know, but the ones we don't know. Like a wonderful lady named Ester Mae Holt, who digs into her pocket to send care packages to our security forces troops on a regular basis. None of them have ever met her in person, but they all feel a close bond to her because of the love she sends via U.S. Postal Service.

We received boxes of Bibles from Major Mayan Shah's home church in D.C., and tons of food and personal toiletry items from people all over the U.S. who want us to know that we are in their thoughts and prayers.

We get packages at the chapel at least every other day. We usually take out the toiletry items and give them to the Air Force Theater Hospital, for their in-patients, and we give the rest to the Army Civil Affairs Office to distribute to needy Iraqis. We get tons of things from the people back home because they want to show us that they love and support us.

"What can I send you," a wonderful lady named Ursula Kopf

who works in civil service back at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., once asked me via e-mail. "Anything but cookies or candy," I replied, and drew a smiley face.

I didn't turn down her offer to send something because I know how she feels. This time last year, I was doing the exact same thing. Sending care packages to Soldiers and Airmen who must know that they are loved and thought of constantly.

After our patriotic fellow Americans have done all they can to support our troops; paid their taxes on time, put yellow ribbons on their house and a, "We support our troops," bumper sticker on their car. They don't feel as though their mission is complete unless they bake us a fresh batch of homemade oatmeal-raisin cookies.

We don't want to tell them that the cookies they made tastes just as good as the ones we get in the DFACs or that we have a wide variety of food and dessert items, so we really aren't hungry. We just gratefully accept because we know that it is far better to give than to receive.

What an awesome problem to have! Just

384 years ago, the Pilgrims encountered their first New England Winter. Most of them did not survive. Of the 110 men, women and children who set sail on the Mayflower, less than half survived the first year. They died of starvation, disease and hypothermia.

If they saw us today, I'm sure that they would say their sacrifice was not in vain. They went without, so that future generations would have. They came in pursuit of religious freedom, so that we could be established as one nation under God, and be free to worship in the faith of our choice.

Now, one of our biggest problems is obesity and heart disease due to our abundance. We throw away better things than most people in the world will ever own. In a world where 1 in 3 children go to bed hungry, our children pout because, "Mikey has a DVD player in his car, why don't we have one? Do you actually expect me to look out the window?"

Our cup certainly runneth over. The poorest of our nation live in better conditions than the middle class in Third World countries. I should know. I was born in Jamaica, and spent the first 6 years of my life in a rural area that had no running water or electricity. I didn't realize that we were poor. After all, I had shoes; many of the other children did not. I had certain luxury items like a toothbrush and toothpaste. I didn't have any toys, but who needs toys when you can chase baby chickens around the yard all day? I didn't realize just how poor we were until I went back to visit.

It's hard for me to ever see the glass as half empty. I had to learn to be patient with those don't see the glass the way I do—full to the brim and running over the sides.

As you enjoy your Thanksgiving feast this year, look at your glass and see that it is half full. The empty part of the glass is that your relatives are not sitting next to you. The full part of the glass is that you are here, protecting the freedom and way of life that we all so often take for granted. Your cup is full and running over, because you are full.



# Deployed Airmen to get new PT uniform first

## Some in SWA to receive new duds next week

Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez

*Air Force Print News*

WASHINGTON – When the Air Force chief of staff announced a new fitness standard in July 2003, he promised Airmen a new physical training uniform in which to prepare.

That new uniform is now ready, and Airmen serving in Southwest Asia will be the first to get them, said Senior Master Sgt. Jacqueline Dean, the Air Force uniform board superintendent.

"The beginning of October is when the first shipment really went out," Sergeant Dean said. "(Gen. John P. Jumper) wanted us to target Airmen in Southwest Asia as the first recipients of this uniform. Some Airmen will receive the uniforms as early as the middle of November."

Officials at U.S. Central Command Air Forces designated 13 locations in their area of responsibility as needing the uniforms, Sergeant Dean said.

"For force protection issues, CENTAF (officials) wanted Airmen to be in a standardized uniform," Sergeant Dean said. "Additionally, all of the other services in the region are requiring their servicemembers to be in service-unique PT gear when they are not in another uniform."

The new unisex uniform can be worn off-the-shelf, requiring no modifications. It consists of a T-shirt, a pair of shorts and a two-piece nylon running suit. With the exception of the grey T-shirt, the entire ensemble is navy blue. It was designed with comfort and safety in mind, officials said.

"One of the biggest directions from (General Jumper) was that it had plenty of reflectivity," Sergeant Dean said.

The uniform has enough reflective material on it to ensure wearers are visible from any direction. The running suit top, a kind of lightweight coat similar to what is being used by cadets at the Air Force Academy, features wide reflective stripes that form a 'V' across the wearer's chest and back. Seams on the pants are trimmed with reflective piping, while the shorts feature both a



Air Force/Master Sgt. Efrain Gonzalez

**From left, 1st Lt. Megan Schafer, Staff Sgt. Antwain Wright and Master Sgt. Scott Wagers show off different combinations of the new physical training uniform. The new uniform will be issued to Airmen serving in Southwest Asia first and phased into the rest of the force over the next three years.**

reflective 'V' and an Air Force logo. The T-shirt has the Air Force logo on both the front and back.

Wear testing for the uniform began in January at Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash., and Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. Three hundred Airmen tested the uniforms for both comfort and usability.

"The Air Force Clothing Office first did fit tests to make sure the patterns were correct, then went back to talk to individuals to find what they liked and didn't like about the uniforms," Sergeant Dean said. "In one case we found the lining was too long, in another case, the shorts were too full. Appropriate modifications were made based on their input. That all took place and concluded around March."

Besides reflectivity, some key features of the uniform include two pockets in the shorts; one for a military identification card and one for a key; zippers on the running pants to make it easier to slip them on over a pair of shoes, zippers on the running jacket to aid in ventilation; and a hood in the

collar of the jacket.

Total cost for the new uniform is around \$125. Enlisted Airmen will be given an increase in their yearly clothing allowance to purchase the uniform, those in basic military training will be issued the gear, and officers will be required to purchase the uniform with their own funds. The uniforms will eventually be available for sale in military clothing sales stores.

"We are hoping to start seeing some of the PT uniforms stateside in the January or February timeframe," Sergeant Dean said. "For now, the distribution plan revolves around those on deployment."

Sergeant Dean said there is not yet an official mandatory wear date for the uniform. When Air Force officials do set the date, Airmen will be required to maintain a complete uniform in much the same way they do their battle dress uniforms and blues.

Airmen can see the guidelines for wearing the new uniform at [www.af.mil/news/wear\\_policy.pdf](http://www.af.mil/news/wear_policy.pdf).



## Defense briefs

### AF begins third date-of-separation rollback

WASHINGTON – As a part of force shaping, Air Force personnel officials have implemented a third enlisted date of separation rollback.

The program "rolls back" the date of separation of enlisted Airmen with specific re-enlistment eligibility codes, or assignment availability codes. These Airmen will have less than 14 years or more than 20 years of service at the time of separation.

The established DOS is no later than May 15, and it affects all Air Force specialties with the following eligibility or assignment availability codes: 2X, denied re-enlistment; 3D, declined permanent change of station; 3E, declined training; 4H, serving suspended punishment pursuant to Article 15 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice; 4I, serving on the control roster; Assignment availability codes: AAC09, Airmen declined to extend or re-enlist for retainability for PCS, or temporary duty; AAC10, denied re-enlistment.

Retirement-eligible Airmen may retire according to established procedures. Their effective retirement date will be May 1.

Air Force Personnel Center officials will forward rosters of affected personnel and instructions to all military personnel flights. People with these codes will require commanders to determine if retention is warranted, and change the codes as authorized, officials said.

More information about the rollback and force-shaping initiatives is available online at [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/ret-sep/shape2.htm](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/ret-sep/shape2.htm).

### Paper LES program ends, digital delivery new standard

WASHINGTON – Airmen will get one less piece of mail now that the Defense Finance and Accounting Service stopped sending paper leave and earnings statements this month.

Airmen will not go without the critical information the LES provides because it is now available via the service's myPay Web site, said Colonel Patrick Coe, director of the Air Force Accounting and Finance Office.

"You can now access this information anywhere you have access to a computer," Colonel Coe said. "And most of the active-duty force already has a PIN for myPay."

The information in the electronic LES is the same as the old, but the Air Force is looking for ways to expand and make the electronic version easier to use.

"Currently we are testing a 'smart LES' for civilians and hope to make it available to Airmen in the future," he said. "This is an LES where you can click on some of the blocks, and a window comes up to explain the contents of the block."

The Air Force asked DFAS officials to stop providing the paper version to save nearly \$4 million a year in printing and mailing costs. Another motive, Colonel Coe said, was to familiarize Airmen with the functions available on the site.

Airmen can turn the paper version back on through myPay, but Air Force policy is that they receive it electronically. The option may be removed in the future.

The myPay Web site is online at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>.

## Meet your neighbor



**Tech. Sgt. Robert Sheridan**

Home station: Altus Air Force Base, Okla.

Unit: 332nd EMDG

Family: Wife, 1st. Lt. Sabrina Sheridan; daughters, Saidah, Jenee, Chanel, Mya, Simone, and baby Sheridan due in Dec.

Hobbies: Fishing.

How do you contribute to the mission? As a member of the emergency room staff, I assist the physicians in providing emergency care to coalition force members.

What is your favorite aspect of this deployment? I enjoy the dining facilities outstanding quality of food they provide.

Besides your family, what do you miss back home? I miss my boat, just can't wait to get home to some good ol' fishing.



**Sounds of Home**

**107.3 FM**

**AFN Iraq**

## Air Force Religious Schedule

### Protestant

#### Sundays:

8 a.m. • Religious Education – H-6 Chapel  
9 a.m. • Contemporary Worship – H-6 Chapel  
10:30 a.m. • Traditional – Hospital  
2 p.m. • Bible Study – Hospital  
3 p.m. • Devotional – CSAR Theatre  
5:30 p.m. • Inspirational Worship – T-Town Chapel

#### Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays:

8:45 a.m. • Purpose Driven Life Study – CASF

#### Daily:

8:30 p.m. • Band of Brothers – H-6 Chapel  
9 p.m. • Prayer – H-6 Chapel

### Islamic

#### Fridays:

1:30 p.m. • Prayer – Provider Chapel

### Church of Christ

#### Sundays:

11 a.m. • Worship – 1/142nd Chapel Tent

### Lutheran

#### Sundays:

8:30 a.m. • Cherokee Chapel  
2 p.m. • 185th Task Force Tent

### Roman Catholic

#### Sundays:

10:30 a.m. • Mass – H-6 Chapel

#### Wednesdays:

9:30 a.m. • Mass – CASF

#### Fridays:

6 p.m. • Reconciliation – Hospital  
6:30 p.m. • Mass – Hospital

### Latter Day Saints

#### Sundays:

7 p.m. • Sacraments – H-6 Chapel  
8 p.m. • Sunday School – H-6 Chapel

#### Thursdays:

7 p.m. • Study Group – H-6 Chapel

### Jewish

#### Fridays:

6:30 p.m. • Prayer – Eden Chapel

### Orthodox

#### Sundays:

11 a.m. • Divine Liturgy – 185th Task Force Tent

#### Saturdays:

7 p.m. • Vespers – 185th Task Force Tent

## Know what this is?

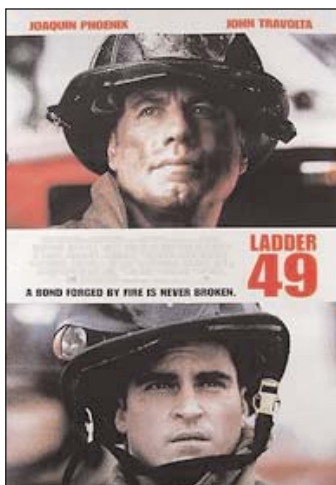


Air Force/Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen

If you can identify the object, send us an e-mail at [redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil](mailto:redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil). The first person with the correct answer wins a \$15 gift certificate courtesy of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service. Last week's photo of a 'W' on a potable water tank went unidentified, so another \$5 carried over to this week.

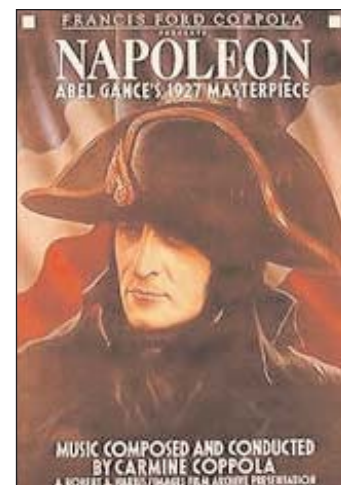


# Sustainer Movie Schedule



Schedule is subject to change

Today	9 p.m. - Day after	Daughter
3 p.m. - Ladder 49	Tomorrow	9 p.m. - Napoleon
6 p.m. - Napoleon	Monday	Wednesday
9 p.m. - Napoleon	3 p.m. - Dirty	3 p.m. - 50 First
	Dancing	Dates
Saturday	6 p.m. - Envy	6 p.m. - Godsend
3 p.m. - Ladder 49	9 p.m. - 50 First	9 p.m. - Ladder 49
6 p.m. - Catwoman	Dates	
9 p.m. - Ladder 49		Thursday
Sunday	Tuesday	3 p.m. - Gothika
3 p.m. - Cinderella	3 p.m. - Ladder 49	6 p.m. - Gothika
6 p.m. - Napoleon	6 p.m. - First	9 p.m. - Napoleon



## 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Editorial Staff

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All photos are Air Force photos, unless otherwise indicated.

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